



NATIONAL  
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STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



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**Week of: Sept 4-Sept 10, 2006**

**Number: 27**

**Released: Sept 11, 2006**

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## **CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

The Commonwealth experienced cooler temperatures this week, while fields began to dry out from Tropical Storm Ernesto. Days suitable for field work were 4.7. The state received above-normal amounts of rainfall this week, with an average high temperature of 83 degrees. Recent rains have benefited most field crops as well as pasture conditions. Pastures and hay fields should have a good jumpstart for early fall growth. Cattle producers should welcome the improvement in pasture conditions since some have been concerned about supplementing feed. Soybeans seem to have benefited the most from the increase in moisture. Late planted beans are filling pods better now, hopefully increasing yield potential. Corn harvest was underway again this week where fields were dry enough. Good corn yields have been reported. Corn harvest may be slowed down due to wet fields, which could affect small grain planting decisions as well. Vegetable harvests are winding down. Some areas reported minor storm damage to vegetable crops. Much of the tobacco crop has been harvested and housed. Strawberry producers are preparing fields for next year's crop. Fields were too wet in many areas for much field work, but other farm activities included scouting fields for insect problems, cleaning up storm debris, and making necessary repairs.

### **TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT**

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 13, 2006	11	35	53	1
August 20, 2006	21	35	43	1
August 27, 2006	36	41	23	0
September 3, 2006	2	7	68	23
September 10, 2006	3	9	75	13

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**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	81	55	67	-4	2.26	1.51	4
Warrenton	81	57	69	-2	1.08	0.24	2
Winchester 7 SE	82	53	67	-3	1.81	1.04	4
Dale Enterprises	81	52	65	-5	2.99	2.22	6
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	84	59	70	0	0.98	0.28	2
Roanoke AP	83	57	69	-2	1.32	0.48	2
Waynesboro	81	55	66	-2	1.13	0.34	1
Staunton AG	81	55	66	-2	1.41	0.62	2
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	84	56	68	-4	1.22	0.25	5
Piedmont Res ST	83	59	69	-2	1.91	1.07	4
Bremo Bluff	89	59	72	0	0.97	0.19	4
Richmond AP	87	64	74	2	2.13	1.35	3
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	83	64	72	-2	0.60	-0.18	2
Wallops Island	79	1	66	-9	2.98	2.21	1
Williamsburg	83	62	72	-2	0.03	-1.02	3
Keysville	84	59	70	-1	0.40	-0.44	2
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	79	52	65	-2	1.14	0.35	4
Wytheville	80	50	64	-3	1.28	0.58	3
Saltville	81	55	68	1	1.89	1.12	2
Richlands	79	52	66	4	1.40	0.63	3
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	83	57	69	0	1.53	0.48	5
Danville AG	86	61	72	-2	0.62	-0.15	3
Chatham	81	56	68	-3	2.16	1.32	4
Martinsville	82	56	69	-1	2.17	1.26	4
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	87	65	74	0	1.14	0.16	2
Oceana	85	61	73	-3	1.02	-0.12	2
Emporia	87	62	74	4	3.92	3.01	2
Newport News	87	62	74	-1	0.29	-0.69	6

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

**WEATHER & CROPS**

Week Of September 4-September 10, 2006

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pastures	9	24	35	28	4
Livestock	0	9	30	56	5
Other Hay	14	31	32	20	3
Alfalfa Hay	6	23	44	24	3
Corn	4	13	31	36	16
Soybeans	2	13	40	37	8
Flue-cured Tobacco	1	6	53	27	13
Burley Tobacco	0	0	15	67	18
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	3	27	50	20	0
Peanuts	0	3	46	18	33
Cotton	0	12	37	33	18
All Apples	0	3	57	40	0
Grapes	0	1	29	70	0

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS</b>				
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>
Corn Dent	87	81	79	84
Corn Mature	67	51	54	61
Corn Grain Harvested	17	3	8	18
Corn Silage Harvested	70	58	63	58
Soybeans Setting Pods	94	92	92	93
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	18	8	14	11
Winter Wheat Seeded	2	0	0	1
Barley Seeded	2	0	6	3
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	47	40	46	55
Burley Tobacco Harvested	49	31	39	52
Peanuts Dug	0	0	0	1
Cotton Bolls Opening	79	50	75	51
Cotton Harvested	0	0	0	0
Fall Apples Harvested	35	27	62	41
Winter Apples Harvested	15	0	0	6

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):**

Ernesto caused limited wind damage to tobacco, breaking some leaves off the plants. (5 to 10%)

**SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):**

Fields are drying out from Tropical Storm Ernesto. Corn harvest is underway. Some soybeans are being treated for worms and stinkbugs. Cotton bolls are opening, and cotton and peanut equipment is getting ready to go.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, *cont.*

### **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY (John Welsh):**

Additional rainfall has strengthened pasture growth, and accelerated fall applications of manure (full pits). Harvest of corn silage is nearing completion and we have seen some shelling start. Late beans and alfalfa are benefiting from rainfall.

### **ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY (Jon Repair):**

Rains of Ernesto were just what the doctor ordered across the County and the Valley. Rains for the most part will not help corn, but certainly will help beans fill. Pastures and hay fields have gotten an outstanding jumpstart for late summer early fall growth. Soil moisture will also benefit fall forage seedings and the establishment of winter grains.

### **CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):**

Farmers are harvesting corn for grain, and scouting and spraying some soybeans for corn earworm. Fall armyworms have been bad in some vegetable crops (especially late tomatoes). Strawberry producers are laying plastic and readying planting fields for next years crop which will be planted probably this week and next.

### **MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):**

Corn harvest is slowly getting going again after the tropical storm. 50% of the corn in the area is down. Harvest will be slow, but so will the grain elevator, so it won't be as noticeable. Corn already harvested is yielding very good to excellent. Slower corn harvest will also affect small grain planting decisions. Producers will have to see how the harvest progresses. Soybeans look much better. Most Double crop and late planted beans received insecticide treatments for Corn Earworm. Some producers have had to spray even after the storm. Yields for beans should be good to very good. Many of the late planted vegetables were affected by the storm. Producers are cleaning up after the storm and making needed repairs.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (Matt Lewis):**

Farmers got their combines back into corn fields late Thursday afternoon for the first time following Ernesto. Damage is much worse in hybrids with low stalk strength. Many producers purchased reels for their corn heads to help retrieve lodged corn. Soybeans seem to have benefited from the drought-breaking rainfall, though the moist conditions and nightly dense fog have increased potential for disease.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):**

Some corn is lodged due to winds and rain from Ernesto. Harvest may be more difficult and slow and will lower quality if it does not dry out so harvest can proceed quickly. Soybeans should improve with the rain from the storm. Most were hurting from the dry weather. They have greened back up this week and seem to be filling pods better. Most fields were too wet for any field work this week. Farmers continued to monitor soybeans for worms, etc. Some vegetable harvest continued. Pastures and hayfields improved with the needed rain. We have had anywhere from 7" to 13" or rain across area over the last week.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Barry Robinson):**

Since rainfall in our region did not occur as predicted, soil moisture is once again becoming limited, thus stressing crops near to or at maturity and harvest. This will obviously affect the harvest quality of some crops.

### **SCOTT COUNTY (Scott Jerrell):**

Light showers and lower temperatures throughout the week made for a nice change. Tomatoes and peppers are slowing down considerably. Most tobacco has been harvested and housed. Strawberry plants are going in the ground, with the moist soils causing some minor complications. Producers are getting prepared for an upcoming vaccination/weaning of VQA calves and finishing paperwork for the Premium Assured Heifer program. Sheep producers are sending a steady supply of market lambs for harvest.